

RICHMOND POLICE WILL GUARD ROADS AROUND HOPEWELL

Judge West Requests Aid of Mayor Ainslie in Meeting Unprecedented Situation.

GOVERNOR PREPARES FOR DRASTIC ACTION

Special Prosecutor and Clerk for Hopewell Police Court to Be Named.

ALDWIN MEN ON GROUND

Tenant Offers, Rewards for Arrest of Highwaymen and Liquor Sellers.

Richmond police in uniform are to patrol the road between Hopewell and Petersburg in an effort to put an end to the robberies which have been frequent in the past few days.

Drastic action to break up continued lawlessness at Hopewell will be taken by Governor Stuart, who is working in harmony with Judge Jesse F. West, of the Circuit Court of Prince George county, in which the powder-plant town is located. Reports made to the Governor show that open violence, including a series of automobile hold-ups, highway robberies and shooting wars, are on the increase, while the violations of the law have decreased to some extent.

The action was decided upon at an extended conference Wednesday night at the Executive Mansion, in which the Governor, Attorney General Pollard, the executive legal adviser and Judge West participated. It was agreed that the present police force is inadequate to handle the situation, and more police will be given at once by the Governor as a result of the representations made to him. Other definite steps were also decided upon by the Governor. These include the offering of rewards for highway robbers, for sellers and gamblers, and the hiring of a special prosecutor to represent the Commonwealth in criminal suits at Hopewell.

RICHMOND POLICE

TO GUARD ROADS

A detail of uniformed officers from the Richmond Police Department in automobiles will patrol the roads between Petersburg and Hopewell, following a series of hold-ups by highwaymen who are infesting the much-traveled routes between the two points. Judge West has prepared a request to Mayor Ainslie, of Richmond, for the detail, which will probably go on duty today. Attorney-General Pollard conferred with Mayor Ainslie and Chief of Police Werner yesterday regarding the matter, and the necessary officers will be furnished.

GOVERNOR OFFERS

LARGE REWARDS

In addition to the police patrol on the roads, additional policemen and a number of secret service men will be assigned to duty in Hopewell and vicinity. The Governor has been informed that the violence on the increase, and that intoxicating liquors are being distributed in large quantities under cover of the night. He has offered a reward of \$250 for evidence leading to the arrest and conviction of any person guilty of highway robbery in or near Hopewell or on the road leading to Petersburg.

Another advertisement will appear in the Hopewell paper, in type sufficiently large to attract the attention of foreigners, offering a reward of \$25 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person engaged in selling liquor or in violating the gambling laws of the State.

ALDWIN DETECTIVES AT

WORK IN HOPEWELL

It is believed that further action is contemplated by the Governor regarding police protection for Hopewell, although no announcement has been made. T. L. Felts, who, with W. G. Aldwin, is the head of the Baldwinville Detective Agency at Roanoke, has had a detail of men at Hopewell for a month, will be in the city for a conference with the Governor. Mr. Baldwin was in Petersburg yesterday.

SPECIAL PROSECUTOR

The Governor has offered Commonwealth's Attorney Timothy Rives, of Prince George County, the services of a special prosecutor for the police courts at Hopewell, and will also appoint a clerk of the Police Court to be named by the Governor.

Enormous Sum is Claimed for Taxes



THOMAS FORTUNE RYAN.

THOMAS F. RYAN OWES \$1,700,000 IN TAXES

State's Wealthiest Citizen to Be Assessed on \$50,000,000 Estate.

MANY CONFERENCES ARE HELD

John L. Lee, Counsel for Examiner of Records of Nelson County, Says Congressman Hal D. Flood Will Appear as Mr. Ryan's Attorney.

Thomas Fortune Ryan, commonly reported to be the wealthiest citizen of Virginia, is called upon to settle with the State for back taxes due on omitted taxable values estimated to be in the neighborhood of \$50,000,000. The estimated indebtedness of Mr. Ryan to the State on this enormous amount, the accumulated omissions of ten years, is \$1,700,000.

These facts have become known since negotiations were opened between representatives of the Ryan estate and State officials, with a view to satisfying the requirements of the tax laws and at the same time safeguarding Mr. Ryan's interests against any possible imposition.

LEE AWAITING CONFERENCE

WITH RYAN'S ATTORNEY

When Mr. Lee came to Richmond last Tuesday and conferred with Governor Stuart and Auditor Moore, it was reported that he was representing the Ryan interests. Later he admitted that his services had been engaged by the examiners and the taxing officers.

Inquiry made by The Times-Dispatch last night elicited from Lynchburg the information that "Mr. Lee will make no statement until after a conference in the near future has been held."

ESTIMATE OF \$1,700,000 BASED

ON CONSERVATIVE FIGURES

Out of the numerous secret conferences held in the last two weeks, the information, apparently authentic, comes that the estimate of the amount of omitted taxes due by the Ryan estate, \$1,700,000, is based upon an estimate fixing the total wealth of Mr. Ryan at \$50,000,000. The popular belief is, however, that the Ryan fortune is nearer \$100,000,000.

Figures available in the taxbooks in the State Auditor's office show that the total amount of taxes for which Mr. Ryan was assessed in 1914 was \$24,095.76.

The books show, too, the amount of the Nelson County levies on tangible and intangible property. It amounted to only \$13,500.

CONGRESSMAN FLOOD TO

REPRESENT RYAN

Attorney Lee is quoted as saying when he was in Richmond last Tuesday.

VOTES TO REPEAL JITNEY ORDINANCE

Committee Recommends Substitute to Haddon Measure Annuling Law in Toto.

TO DRAW NEW REGULATIONS

Call Is Signed for Special Meeting of Council on Next Monday Night.

To the cheers of a crowd of 200 men and women who occupied every foot of space in the Council chamber not reserved for members, the Council Committee on Ordinances, by a vote of 4 to 3, last night recommended for passage an ordinance repealing in toto the ordinance passed by the Council on July 17 for the regulation of jitney bus traffic.

Then, on the motion of Councilman Edgar B. English, who had offered the motion to repeal, the committee voted to appoint a subcommittee of three to undertake the task of drafting a new regulatory ordinance which shall be fair to all the people and properly protect all interests. Acting Chairman Jones appointed on this committee Councilman English, chairman; Councilman Cheatwood and Alderman Paul.

JOIN IN CALL FOR

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

And then, taking at its flood the tide that leads to fortune, the four members of the committee who voted to repeal the present law, signed a call for a special meeting of the Council, to be held at 7:30 o'clock Monday night for the purpose, if possible, of carrying the nullifying ordinance through the lower branch without further delay. The signing of the call by the four members makes it mandatory upon President Peters to call the special Council meeting as requested.

The Board of Aldermen will hold an adjourned session at 5 o'clock Monday night to dispose of the regular docket, which failed of consideration Tuesday night. It is barely possible, if the spirit of a majority of the Ordinance Committee is shared in the legislative branches, that the ordinance may be repealed before the end of next week.

The meeting last night was enlivened by the presence of an attendance of citizens larger than has gathered in the Council chamber at any time in recent months. The crowd was several times as large as the deputation that gathered on Monday night to press upon the Charter Change Committee the favorable consideration of a new form of government for the city of Richmond.

PRESENTS RESOLUTIONS

ADOPTED AT MASS-MEETING

L. C. Younger, acting chairman of a committee of West End citizens appointed by Tuesday night's mass-meeting at William Fox School, introduced George J. Hooper, who had presided over the mass-meeting. Mr. Hooper presented the resolutions adopted upon that occasion calling for the repeal of the present jitney ordinance.

In presenting the resolutions, Mr. Hooper drew attention to the unanimity of sentiment in the West End for the removal of the regulations which, he said, have legislated the jitney out of business. He discussed the legal aspect of the bond required by the present ordinance, expressing the opinion that it afforded no protection whatever to the citizens, and operated merely to make it unprofitable to run jitneys.

Attorney W. Kirk Mathews said that the experience of the Motor Transit Corporation, which claims that it lost \$700 a month operating jitneys under the present ordinance, is proof conclusive that the regulations are destructive. If it were possible to operate profitably under the ordinance, he said, the company, having the expert operating knowledge and advice of the Virginia Railway and Power Company, would have succeeded in doing so.

MRS. RANDOLPH JOINS

IN PLEA FOR JITNEYS

Mrs. Norman V. Randolph made a general plea for the removal of restrictions on jitney operation in the interest of people residing in the "fan" section of the West End who, she said, have been subjected to real inconvenience by the elimination of this transportation adjunct. Enthusiastic speeches for the removal of burdensome regulation were made by Clarence Coleman and Attorney Alfred E. Cohen.

Councilman Haddon, patron of a measure before the committee providing for the repeal of the bonding provision of the jitney ordinance, told the committee that he would not object to a substitute repealing the ordinance in its entirety. He believed, he said, in some form of regulation, and wanted a new ordinance drawn that would reasonably regulate the business.

Dr. George Ross, H. C. Baskerville and Dr. W. L. Prince, residing on Park Avenue and Grove Avenue, told the committee that, while they had no objection to the jitneys and would welcome their restoration under reasonable regulation, they were opposed to their restoration under the old terms. The rest of the city, they contended, had no right to enjoy any service at the expense of the peace and property of citizens residing on Grove and Park Avenues. These streets, they said, were practically ruined for residential purposes in the days of unrestricted jitney operation, and they were strenuously opposed to a restoration of the old situation.

UNLAWFUL DECLARES FOR

NEW JITNEY ORDINANCE

Former Councilman Jacob Umlauf, a member of the mass-meeting's deputation, thought the committee would make no serious mistake in repealing the present ordinance and addressing itself to the task of drafting a new one. Pending the completion of this work, he said, the city's traffic ordinances, if properly enforced, would in-

(Continued on Second Page.)

GIGANTIC BATTLES ON EASTERN FRONT

Germans Advance in North and Center, and Russians Continue to Gain in South.

MORE MEN CALLED TO COLORS

If Age Limit Is Fixed at Thirty-Five, About 8,000,000 Will Be Added to Czar's Forces.

LONDON, September 16.—Stern battles are being fought all along the eastern front from Riga to the Roumanian border, and while the Germans continue to advance slowly in the north and center, Russian successes continue in the south. The Austro-German armies are being driven back across the River Stripa, in Galicia, and have been forced to retire westward north of the Galician frontier.

While these Russian victories naturally are welcomed in Russia and the allied countries as an evidence that the Russian armies still are able to take the offensive, there is no inclination to exaggerate their importance. The engagements at least keep the Teutons busy and make it imperative to send reinforcements southward, which could be used to better advantage in the north, where operations of much greater moment are being directed by Von Hindenburg.

This general, who began his offensive against the Vilna-Dvinsk railway a week ago, has not yet established himself on the line. His cavalry, which did reach it, has been driven back. Nevertheless, he has driven the Russians across the Dvina River, north of Dvinsk, placing that city in a rather dangerous position, and also has made some progress north of Vilna.

RUSSIANS OFFERING

STUBBORN RESISTANCE

South of Vilna, toward Grodno, the Russians are offering stubborn resistance, and have the Germans firmly held. In the center, also, Prince Leopold has been delayed in his advance. Von Mackensen has passed his forces through the Pripiet marshes, and now is in possession of Pinsk. From this point southward the Russians are advancing, and have recaptured several villages, but they are not expected to push their advantage much further, as to do so would make their northern flank vulnerable.

Much importance is attached to Russia's decision to call to the colors the reserves of the territorial army. Should the age limit be fixed at thirty-five years, this fresh call would mean the possible addition of 8,000,000 men to Russian armies, including the men who had passed through the first line and the reserves and those who heretofore have been exempted as students, only sons, or men who are not quite up to the physical standard.

Naturally, all of these could not be armed and equipped, but Russia could have the pick of them.

With Russia now well supplied with munitions, her allies, who have been supplying her, are able to turn their attention to their own armies, and in the artillery engagements which have been so marked in the west for several weeks past. In the Dardanelles the British losses have totaled 57,430 up to August 21, including 17,695 killed.

BRITISH SUBMARINE

MISSING TWO WEEKS

The British submarine E-7, operating in those waters, which the Turks claim to have sunk, is admitted by the British admiralty to have been missing since September 4. The E-7 did much damage to Turkish shipping in the Sea of Marmara, and, after blocking the railroad line near Karaburnu by bombing it from the sea, shelled a troop train and blew up three ammunition cars attached to it.

Evidence reached London to-day that the situation of the neutral Balkan states is becoming more and more acute. Berlin newspapers are said to be publishing sensational telegrams intimating that Roumania's participation in the war may be expected at any minute, and the Giornal d'Italia, of Rome, says that because of the concentration of Greek and Roumanian troops on the Bulgarian frontier Bulgaria has asked for an immediate explanation.

Richmond's Fall Fashion Show



Begins
Next
Wednesday,
September,
22, 23,
24

LOAN FALLS TO HALF ITS PREVIOUS SIZE

Five Hundred Millions Is Sum Which Reports Set as Amount America Will Lend.

NO OFFICIAL STATEMENT

In Some Manner, Not Understood, Situation Undergoes Change Overnight.

NEW YORK, September 16.—The proposed billion-dollar loan to Great Britain and France shriveled to-day in the gossip of Wall Street to half its previous size. Five hundred millions was the sum which reports set as the amount American financiers would lend. At least one financier, in close touch with the situation, was quoted as saying that this sum would be loaned. The commission itself and its American financial allies had nothing to say as to this phase.

In some manner not understood to-night, the situation underwent a change overnight. There was an almost unanimous opinion among bankers whose views could be obtained that a billion dollars was not needed, and that in naming this vast sum at the outset the commission sought to place itself in an advantageous trading position. Here is the way some financial authorities regarded the situation to-night:

The commission asked for a billion dollars did not expect to get the full amount. To this request bankers would naturally make a counteroffer—say, a half billion.

SERIES OF PARLEYS

THEN WILL FOLLOW

There would then follow a series of parleys. The commission would reduce the amount by \$50,000,000 to \$100,000,000, and the American bankers would add a few millions to their previous offer. After a period of negotiations, they would reach a common figure, and definite terms as to interest, duration of the loan and other details could be arranged fairly soon.

The Anglo-French commissioners, in the opinion of Wall Street, are master players in the game of world finance. They do not betray by their words what their intentions are, nor do they place all their cards on the table at once, as Wall Street views it. Consequently, it is expected there will be many more developments before it will be seen what they really are striving for, and whether they will win.

FORMAL STATEMENT

ISSUED BY COMMISSION

Issuance of formal statements was begun to-night by the commission. It is expected such statements will be issued daily so long as negotiations are in progress. To-night's statement read as follows:

"The mission has nothing of fresh importance to say. Its members have continued largely in their individual capacities and occasionally as a body, the discussions already begun with reference to the exchange markets and kindred subjects.

"Figures have been collected going to show the total exports in recent years of cotton, grain and other food-stuffs to Great Britain; the totals of such figures being such a direct bearing upon the question of establishing credits in this country. The figures, as published to-day, give the total commodity exports of this country last year to Great Britain, Canada and France as approximately \$1,600,000,000, the greater part of that being for articles of normal export. These figures, if correct, as we assume them to be, indicate the great volume of international trade involved in this whole situation.

"As to any actual negotiations covering a proposed loan, it is almost too much to say that they are actually under way as yet, but so much has already been accomplished in ascertaining the exact facts of the situation that it is hoped that the time for some definite statement as to progress will soon arrive."

MORGAN PLACES DETAILS

BEFORE ROCKEFELLER

A representative of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., confirmed late to-day the report that Mr. Morgan has placed before Mr. Rockefeller tentative details of the proposed loan, with a view to having Mr. Rockefeller subscribe to it, although Mr. Rockefeller has not yet been asked to do so. In his behalf, it was said he had neither opposed nor espoused the project, but had taken it under consideration.

Considerable importance was attached to a visit made to-day by Jacob H. Schiff, of Kuhn, Loeb & Co., to James J. Hill at Mr. Hill's office. Renewal of the report that the so-called pro-German financial interests of New York might participate in the loan followed their talk. Neither would discuss it, except to say that Mr. Schiff had called to extend birthday greetings to Mr. Hill.

Mr. Hill was quoted afterward as saying the commission would obtain a half billion dollars here.

TOYS FROM GERMANY

First Cargo, Containing 1,200 Cases, Being Unloaded From Steamer in Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, September 16.—The first cargo of German-made toys to arrive here this year was being unloaded from the Holland American Line steamer Zaandijk. There were 1,200 cases in the cargo, and most of the toys were made by hand in the black forests of Germany.

Treasurer of State Owes Many Banks



ASHER W. HARMAN, JR.

STATE TREASURER FILES PETITION IN BANKRUPTCY

Asher W. Harman, Jr., Lists Liabilities of \$54,680.95 and Assets of \$17,167.50.

MANY BANKS LOSE HEAVILY

Secured and Unsecured Claims in All Sections of State—Insurance Policies Valued at \$15,000 Are Chief Assets—Issues No Statement.

State Treasurer Asher W. Harman, Jr., yesterday filed a petition in voluntary bankruptcy in the United States District Court, listing his liabilities at \$54,680.95 and his assets at \$17,167.50. Mr. Harman declined to make any statement for publication in regard to the matter, saying that he had nothing to say.

Of the total amount of Mr. Harman's indebtedness, as listed in the petition, his creditors hold securities for the payment of \$11,898.34, and \$5,060 of the amount is vouched for on accommodation paper, his brother, former State Senator A. C. Harman, standing security for the greater part of the amount. The balance of the claims, aggregating \$34,722.61, are unsecured.

ASSETS INCLUDE TWO

LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES

Of the \$17,167.50 listed by the petitioner as his assets, two life insurance policies, one for \$5,000 in the Northwestern Mutual and the other for \$10,000 in the Fidelity Mutual Life Insurance Company of Philadelphia, both of which are held as collateral by the Planter's National Bank, make up the greater part. The balance of the assets, except \$425, is represented by real estate, consisting of a lot on Chaffin Street, held as collateral by the Bank of Commerce and Trusts; a tract of land in Rockbridge County, containing twelve and a half acres; four lots in Suffolk County, N. Y., and two in Oyster Bay, N. Y.

By far the greater part of Mr. Harman's indebtedness is to the banks of the city and State. These institutions hold unsecured claims against him amounting to \$33,520. Eight of these banks are located in Richmond, others are scattered over various sections of the State.

LIST OF SECURED AND

UNSECURED CREDITORS

Creditors whose claims against Mr. Harman are secured are as follows: Planter's National Bank, of Richmond, holding notes against him aggregating \$11,898.34, secured by two life insurance policies aggregating \$15,000, and the Bank of Commerce and Trusts, whose claim of \$700 is secured by a deed of trust on a lot on Chaffin Street. Unsecured claims against the petitioner are as follows: Bank of Commerce and Trusts, Richmond, \$2,510; American National Bank, Richmond, \$1,590; Merchants' National Bank, Richmond, \$775; National State and City Bank, Richmond, \$2,675; Central National Bank, Richmond, \$1,750; Bank of Waverly, Waverly, \$1,725; Alexandria National Bank Alexandria, \$10,825; Bank of Hampton, Hampton, \$5,550; the Greensville Bank, Emporia, \$3,910; Jefferson National Bank, Charlottesville, \$500; Covington National Bank, Covington, \$300; Church Hill Bank, Richmond, \$500; Broad Street Bank, Richmond, \$325; Seaboard National Bank, Norfolk, \$500; First National Bank, Richmond, \$775; First National Bank, Company, Lexington, \$15,175; James E. Heck, Lexington, \$147.90; Davenport & Co., Richmond, \$150; Robinson Supply Company, open account, \$101.54, and D. C. Zollkofer, \$640.

ACCOMMODATION PAPER

INDORSED BY HIS BROTHER

The accommodation paper listed is as follows: Alexandria National Bank, Alexandria, A. C. Harman, \$2,700; Greensville Bank, Emporia, A. C. Harman, \$750; First National Bank, Richmond, A. C. Harman, \$385; National State and City Bank, Richmond, A. C. Harman, \$335; American National Bank, Richmond, A. C. Harman, \$30; Bank of Hampton, Hampton, A. C. Harman, \$250; Bank of Hampton, Hampton, H. Stewart Jones, \$500; Citizens' National Bank, Norfolk, A. C. Harman, \$320; Jefferson National Bank, Charlottesville, A. C. Harman, \$290; National Valley Bank, Staunton, A. C. Harman, \$70; Covington Savings Bank, Covington, A. C. Harman, \$340; Bank of Waverly, Waverly, A. C. Harman, \$300; Planter's National Bank, Richmond, A. C. Harman, \$335; Church Hill Bank, Richmond, A. C. Harman, \$445; Merchants' National Bank, Richmond, A. C. Harman, \$415; Bank of Commerce and Trusts, Richmond, A. C. Harman, \$265; West End Bank, Inc., Richmond, A. C. Harman, \$320.

AMERICAN GOODS WORTH MILLIONS SEIZED BY BRITAIN

Shipments of Meat on Four Steamers Condemned and Forfeited by Prize Court.

ONLY SMALL PORTION RELEASED TO CLAIMANTS

Case Will Be Carried to Privy Council, Says Attorney for Chicago Packers.

DECISION WILL HURT TRADE

Tremendous Consignments, It Is Held, Undoubtedly Were Intended for Germany.

LONDON, September 16.—Virtually all of the American meat aboard the seized Norwegian steamers Kim, Alfred Nobel, Bjernstjerne Bjornsen and Fridland was condemned by the British prize court to-day and declared forfeited to the crown. The cargoes were valued at about \$15,000,000. A small part was released to claimants.

The case has been pending for several months. The steamships were seized last November, and efforts by the American owners to obtain an early trial failed. The hearing began in June and closed last month.

The court said it was plain these cargoes were carrying towards Copenhagen, when seized, more than thirteen times the amount of goods which under normal circumstances would have been taken to that port. The fact gave practical and overwhelming assurance that the goods were intended to find their way to Germany. One circumstance throwing light on the real destination of the goods, Sir Samuel T. Evans, president of the court, said, was that the exportation of lard by one American company alone to Copenhagen in three weeks after the outbreak of the war was twenty times more than in periods of peace. As to tins of canned meat, he said, it had not been shown they had been sent to Denmark in any great quantity before the war, yet hundreds of thousands were on the way when the vessels were captured. These tins, it seemed, could not have been meant for any persons other than German soldiers.

CONCEALMENT TO WEIGH

HEAVILY IN PRIZE COURT

Referring to the consignments of rubber, described as gum, the president said:

"I have come to the conclusion that gum is not a true commercial description for rubber, and that it was used in the ships' manifests in order to avoid the difficulty which would result in its capture by a belligerent. Any concealment of this sort will, while I sit in the prize court, weigh heavily against those who adopt such courses."

"Neutrals are expected to conduct their neutral trade with candor, and belligerents are entitled to expect from neutrals a frank course of conduct."

Sir Samuel allowed one claim of a Danish manufacturer for a quantity of rubber, which he said had been shipped in good faith for use in his factory. Another claim was disallowed.

The meat cargoes, shipped by the great American packing companies, and valued by the president at \$15,000,000, were found by the president to be destined, except for some small items, for delivery in Germany. He held that their eventual destination was the German government, for the use of its naval and military forces. To rule otherwise, Sir Samuel said, would be to allow one's eyes to be blinded by theories and technicalities.

COURT DISALLOWS

SIXTEEN CLAIMS

The court disallowed sixteen claims, including those of the Morris, Armour, Hammond, Swift and Sulzberger companies. It allowed eight claims, including that of the Cudahy company, of Chicago. The others were Danish consignees.

Sir Samuel gave leave to appeal, fixing security for the costs at \$25,000, divisible among the appellants. He also gave the crown attorneys leave to appeal in the cases of the Cudahy and other claims allowed.

The decision aroused intense interest among all the representatives of American packing firms here, as well as those immediately involved, as no American meat products have been shipped to European neutrals since last May, and the unfavorable result of the packers' case is likely to cause further stoppage of this trade.

"We intend to carry the case to the Privy Council, where we expect to win," said Alfred R. Urion, attorney for the Chicago packers.

It is known that the packers, in the event of losing in the Privy Council, will make further appeals through diplomatic channels, with an international commercial tribunal as a possible court of final appeal. The packers contend that, as the orders in council of last March were not in force when the ships were seized, it is not even incumbent upon them to prove that the cargoes were not destined for a nation at war with Great Britain, and they expect this contention would be upheld by an international tribunal.

NO ACTION BY UNITED STATES

CONTEMPLATED AT PRESENT

WASHINGTON, September 16.—No action by the United States government in connection with the condemnation of American meat cargoes by the British prize court is contemplated at present. State Department officials explained to-day that the American packers preferred to exhaust all legal remedies before invoking the aid of their government.

At one stage of the proceedings, when the packers felt they were being needlessly delayed by the British au-